

To whom it may concern,

We are all local musicians, promoters, venue owners or work for a local music business. We are concerned about the impact of a downtown casino on our local music scene. At a recent public information session concerning the effect of a possible casino expansion into downtown Hamilton, city council was advised by Dr. Hannah Holmes, a professor of Economics at McMaster University that a casino would very likely hurt local, independent businesses. The current revival of our wonderful downtown is due in part to a growing number of small local businesses and a strong and vibrant arts community.

The recent proposal by the Hard Rock Group and Carmens Group Inc. for a downtown casino suggests that a live music venue will be a large component of their facility. As musicians, promoters and music venue owners we have a very real concern that a large entertainment complex, run, in part, by a large American-owned corporation, could potentially harm local, independent music venues and promoters. As local independent businesses who do not have the advantage of an exclusive partnership with a gambling monopoly, we are concerned that this development will not compete on a level playing field and harm some of the many businesses who have already invested in the downtown core.

Casinos in cities across North America have been built as self-sustaining developments that use music and other forms of entertainment to prevent people from leaving or utilizing other amenities within the surrounding area.

To be clear, we do not take issue with anyone wanting to build more and larger music venues in Hamilton, however we believe that a large corporation may not be sensitive to our city's musical history, nor care about its impacts on local arts in general. As such, we are stating that should a downtown casino be pushed through at Council without a proper city-wide referendum we would choose to neither play at it nor promote for it.

Collectively,

Michael Keire/ Threshold Recording Studio

Lee Reed

Adam Bentley/ The Rest

Terra Lightfoot

Doobie Freaks

Young Rival

Junior Boys

Sonic Unyon

Lou Molinaro/This Ain't Hollywood

Jessy Lanza

Mike Renaud

Homegrown Hamilton

Ollie/ Beauty Industries
Aaron Sakala/ Lee Reed
Cowlick
Casbah
Ace Piva
Mike Trebilcock
Drew Smith
Caribou
Pick a Piper
George Pettit/ Alexisonfire
Orphx
Max Kerman/ Arkells
John Caffery/ Kids on TV
Young Empires
Wax Mannequin
Canadian Winter
Bill Majoros/ The Foreign Films
Steven McKay/ Bruce Peninsula
Tor Lukasik-Foss
Sandeep Bhandari
James Tennant
Ken Inouye
New Hands
Catherine North Studios
Mike Simon
Haolin Munk
Illitry
Jeremy Fisher
Aaron Goldstein
Dark Mean
Kojo easy Dampthey
Chore
David Dunham/DAVIDS/DivorceVideo/Don Vail
Cam Malcolm
Toledo
Secret Heights
The Kettle Black
Matt Jelly
Monster Truck
Juke Wilson
Sarah Good
Brad Germain
Sianspheric
The Caretakers
Thom Gill
Greg Santilly

San Sebastian
Jamie Smith
The Dirty Nil
Earth Wind and Choir
Magic Shadows
Annie Shaw
Social Divorce
Electroluminescent
Piranha Entertainment
Monster Fever
You, Me and the Machine
Tom Shea
Trio Arjento
Slender Loris
Crop Failure
glassEYElashes
Pucumber Sasssquash Family Band
Steve Hanson In Transit
The Safety Collective
TV Freaks
Paul Hogeterp
The Baltimore House

ADDED AS OF 8 February 2013

Darcy Hepner
Astrid Hepner
Tom Wilson
Harlan Pepper
Turkey Rhubarb
BEARD
Chris Logan / Anxiety / Goodfellow Records
Dan Rivero – promoter
The Plain Steel
Jamie Shea
OurSis Sam
Steel Gold
Roots 2Leaf Project
Dave Reed
Paul Penney
Patricia Speakman
Mike Hannay / Ancients
The Steeltown Spoilers
Herd Of Elk
Other Songs Music Co.
Matt Paxton
Scott Orr

Timid The Brave
The Pre-Nods
FRANKIE & JIMMY
Spooky Astronauts Drawing Club
Shelley Woods
Sam Klass
DJ KIKIDY
Caleb Collins / Circle Takes The Square
Northern Metal Management
Joe Rico / Sacrifice
Dave Marini
Cessna
Crop Failure
Fire End Water
Horse Glue
CA Smith
Craig Argyle / The Saints are Coming
Hammer City Records
Schizophrenic Records
Greg Brisco
Kevin Bell/ Black Mountain Music
Donna Lovejoy
Kyle Bishop / Grade
Jamie Ryan Downey/ No Shoes & One Sock
Alex Zafer-Photog
Mitch Fillion / southernsouls.ca
Jason Van Gronignen
Matt Fleming
David Montour
Mitch Bowden
Weekend Riot Club
Sexbeast
The Monarch Project (Jo Boudreau)
Motëm
Stephen Foster/ The Crawlin' Kingsnakes, Simply Saucer
Homegrown Hamilton
Spherical Productions
Blind Mule